

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 /111 W
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P 051500Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5625
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0929

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, LY, CD
SUBJECT: CHAD TALKS: SPEEDY "ACCORD" IN THE OFFING

BEGIN SUMMARY: CHAD TALKS APPEAR HEADED FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION
AS ALL OF THE PARTIES ARE DESIROUS OF CONCLUDING A FINAL -- IF
SUPERFICIAL -- AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNDER NEW
ACCORD, IT IS EXPECTED THAT FROLINAT WILL COMMIT ITSELF TO
WITHDRAW TO ITS MARCH LINES, THE ISSUE OF THE FRENCH PRESENCE
WILL BE FUDGED, AND GOC AND FROLINAT WILL AGREE TO MEET
WITHIN CHAD TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGES IN MALLOUM GOVERNMENT.
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POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE INSURRECTION WILL THEREFORE
IN THE FUTURE BE TREATED AS STRICTLY INTERNAL ISSUE
BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DELAY CAUSED BY THE LATE
ARRIVAL OF NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE, THE CHAD
RECONCILIATION TALKS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN TRIPOLI JULY 4

UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF SUDANESE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ABU AL-QASIM IBRAHIM. THE POLITICAL TALKS CONTINUED JULY 5 AND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SUDANESE COLONEL MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM AWADH WAS SCHEDULED FOR EVENING OF JULY 5. LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE HAS, THUS FAR, BEEN NEGLIGIBLE.

2. INFORMAL CONTACTS JULY 3 BETWEEN CHAD AND FROLINAT REPRESENTATIVES (UNDER THE AEGIS OF ABU AL-QASIM) WERE DESCRIBED BY SOURCES HERE AS "TENSE," "UNCOMFORTABLE," AND "UNPRODUCTIVE." THE MEETINGS JULY 4 WENT MORE SMOOTHLY, AND THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS SOME KIND OF FINAL ACCORD WILL BE SIGNED AS EARLY AS JULY 5 BUT PROBABLY NOT UNTIL JULY 6. (ABU AL-QASIM REPORTEDLY WANTS TO RETURN TO KHARTOUM JULY 6.)

3. THE JULY 4 MEETING BEGAN ON A SOUR NOTE WHEN THE ENTERING FROLINAT DELEGATION (OFFICIALLY HEADED BY IBRAHIM YUSUF BUT WITH GOUKOUNI ALWAYS PRESENT) DECLINED TO RESPOND TO CHAD FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE'S TRADITIONAL ARABIC GREETING OF "PEACE BE UPON YOU." INITIAL DISCUSSION WAS ABRASIVE AND FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF THE "FOREIGN PRESENCE" IN CHAD. BOTH LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI AND FROLINAT'S IBRAHIM YUSUF INSISTED THAT FRANCE MUST WITHDRAW HER FORCES FROM CHAD AS "INTENDED" BY THE SEBHA/BENGHAZI AGREEMENT. ACCORDING

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TO THE SUDANESE EMBASSY, BOTH VICE PRESIDENT ABU AL-QASIM AND CHAD FONMIN KAMOUGUE RESPONDED HEATEDLY TO THESE STATEMENTS, THE FORMER POINTING OUT THAT THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN EXPERTS IN LIBYA WAS WELL-KNOWN AND ACCEPTED, AND KAMOUGUE STRESSING THAT THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN CHAD WAS PROVIDED FOR UNDER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WAS THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT.

4. FOLLOWING THIS EXCHANGE, THE SUDANESE REPORT THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES RATHER READILY AGREED ON A BASIS FOR A "FINAL" ACCORD. IN GENERAL, FROLINAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW TO THE LINES IT HELD AT THE TIME OF THE MARCH SEBHA/BENGHAZI TALKS. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL AGAIN BE CHARGED WITH MONITORING THESE WITHDRAWALS. PROPOSED AGREEMENT WILL ALSO CONTAIN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE CONCERNING THE "FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE" IN CHAD, BUT THE SUDANESE EXPECT THE ISSUE OF THE FRENCH PRESENCE TO BE KEPT IN GENERAL TERMS ONLY, MUCH AS IN THE LAST ACCORD. THE LIBYAN PRESENCE WILL NOT BE MENTIONED. KAMOUGUE IS SAID TO BE PREPARED TO OFFER TO HAVE THE FRENCH FOCUS THEIR PRESENCE ON NDJAMENA ONLY, ALTHOUGH EVEN IF TRUE,

SUDANESE DOUBT WHETHER THE ACCORD WILL CONTAIN ANY
SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN THIS REGARD.

5. COMMENT. THE SUDANESE ARE AS AWARE AS ANYONE THAT
THE PROPOSED ACCORD WILL PROBABLY BE AS MUCH OF A CHARADE
AS WAS ITS SEBHA/BENGHAZI PREDECESSOR AND WILL NOT PRE-
VENT FURTHER LIBYAN MACHINATIONS AGAINST CHAD. NEVERTHE-
LESS, ABU AL-QASIM IS PICTURED AS WANTING TURAYKI'S SIG-
NATURE ON A DOCUMENT WHICH SPECIFIES THAT FUTURE GOC/
FROLINAT DISCUSSIONS ARE AN INTERNAL MATTER TO BE RE-
SOLVED WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN CHAD ITSELF.
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